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Peace can be fostered through cultural ties: PM Modi's call

Inaugurated the SEO Cultural Discussion Forum



Peace can be fostered through cultural ties: PM Modi's call NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for fostering peace through cultural connections. During the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit held in Tianjin, China, in 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the creation of a new platform centered on the cultures of SCO member nations.

In line with this, an 'SCO Cultural Dialogue Forum' has been launched at India's initiative, with 25 countries—including China, Iran, and Sri Lanka—participating. The inaugural conference of this new forum began in Delhi yesterday. Ministers of Culture from these 25 nations are taking part in the two&day event.

Centered on the concept of the world as one family, the conference highlights the cultural links between India and Eurasia. A special exhibition showcasing India's heritage, arts, and literary traditions is also being held. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the SCO Cultural Dialogue Forum at the Purana Qila (Old Fort) in Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, he stated: Wars are currently taking place in various parts of the world.

At such a time, a 'Cultural Dialogue Forum' has been launched in India. Peace can be fostered through cultural ties. SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) member nations should strengthen these cultural bonds by utilizing digital platforms.

About 5,000 years ago, trade existed between the Indus Valley and Mesopotamia. Trade routes were also active between India, China, and the nations of Central Asia. Scholars from various countries once pursued their education at India's Nalanda University. In India, ancient epics and mythological texts have been digitized; SCO member nations should consider adopting similar practices. 'Unity in diversity' is the foundation of India—a principle that other nations across the world could also emulate.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made these remarks. A delegation led by Pakistani Minister Musadik Malik participated in the conference held in Delhi. The visit of a Pakistani minister to India following the 'Operation Sindhur' military action holds significant importance. During his visit, he remarked, "Changes are taking place in the South Asian region. Relations between Pakistan and India will improve."

Eliminating terrorists in Kashmir is a major milestone: Amit Shah

ITANAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in an event where awards were presented to the Arunachal Pradesh Police. Speaking at the event, Amit Shah stated: Following the abrogation of Article 370 in Kashmir, separatist sentiments among the youth there have diminished.

A positive transformation has taken place in Kashmir—not only through the elimination of terrorists but also by putting an end to discrimination and the sense of alienation. Friends, in Pulwama, Kashmir, the local police neutralized a local terrorist linked to the Lashkar&e&Taiba organization in an encounter.

I can proudly say that there are currently no local terrorists left in the Kashmir Valley; those who remain are all terrorists who have come from abroad. This significant milestone has been reached after a 35&year&long struggle, thanks to the persistent courage, dedication, and sacrifices of our security forces and intelligence agencies.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, a new era of development has begun in Arunachal Pradesh. I cannot help but laugh when Congress party leaders in Parliament ask what the Modi



government has done for the Northeastern states.

When the history of the nation's development from 2014 to 2026 is written, this period will undoubtedly be inscribed in golden letters regarding the Northeastern states. Prime Minister Modi and the BJP have expanded airport and railway services, and have significantly improved infrastructure, bridging the gap between Delhi and the Northeastern states. Development projects have begun and are underway.

This will create a very bright future for Kashmir, said Amit Shah.

Iran Proposes Three Cultural Initiatives for SCO Cooperation in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Iran has put forward three new cultural and heritage proposals to strengthen cooperation among member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). These proposals were presented during the First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum held in New Delhi, an event aimed at fostering cultural ties across the region.

Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour, president of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organisation, emphasized the importance of enhancing cultural and civilisational links among SCO countries. He expressed gratitude to India for hosting the significant gathering.

Imanipour highlighted Iran's historical role in promoting dialogue among civilisations, referencing a 1998 UN proposal that led to 2001 being designated the 'Year of Dialogue Among Civilisations'. He stressed that such dialogues must translate into concrete collaborations in culture, science, and education.



Amidst global challenges, Imanipour drew attention to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, citing the tragic loss of innocent lives, particularly children, and the perceived silence of international bodies. He underscored the need for respect for human dignity, social justice, spirituality, and peaceful coexistence among civilisations.

To institutionalize civilisational engagement within the SCO framework, Imanipour proposed three key initiatives. The first is the establishment of a 'Network for Cooperation in Written and Civilisational Heritage'. This network would connect libraries, universities, and cultural institutions to preserve, restore, and digitize historical manuscripts, with Iran offering to host a regional center.

The second proposal involves creating a 'Centre for the Translation and Publication of Scientific and Cultural Works' to translate and publish significant works, including Persian heritage, into various languages. Finally, a 'Network for Dialogue Among Youths' is proposed to facilitate academic exchanges, joint research, and cultural projects among younger generations across SCO member states.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the forum at Purana Qila, emphasizing that cultural connections are crucial for global peace.

He noted that while the world grapples with conflict, India is focusing on civilisational dialogues, reinforcing the importance of cultural cooperation within the SCO, which has already strengthened security, economic, and connectivity ties.

Union Minister of Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat was also present at the inauguration of this three&day event, which concludes on November 22.

Iraq fire at Basra power station kills 4, injures 30

IRAQ: At least 4 people were killed and 30 injured in a fire at a power station in southern Iraq on Saturday, with the toll expected to rise, security officials said. Civil defence teams brought the fire at the Hartha power station north of Basra under control after firefighters responded to the incident, Iraq's state news agency, INA, reported.



The fire spread to neighbouring houses and forced operations at the power station to stop, the security officials said. The Hartha station has an installed generating capacity of 800 megawatts but had been operating at around 400 megawatts before the fire, they said. There was no immediate official information on the cause of the fire or the extent of the damage, INA reported.

Iraq's electricity infrastructure has long struggled with decades of underinvestment, inadequate maintenance and an inability to meet peak demand, particularly during the extremely hot summer months.

Fires and technical failures at substations and power facilities have previously disrupted electricity supplies and caused widespread outages.

Tragedy in U.P.: Ambulance crashes into a tempo; 5 dead

LUCKNOW: Five people have died after an ambulance collided with a tempo in Uttar Pradesh.

The ambulance was transporting the body of a deceased person from Jaipur, Rajasthan, to Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh. On board were three relatives of the deceased and two drivers—a total of five people. While traveling along the Purvanchal Expressway near Karawang village in the Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh, the ambulance rammed into a tempo moving ahead of it.

All five occupants of the ambulance sustained severe injuries in the horrific accident. Upon receiving the information, rescue teams rushed to the scene, recovered the injured, and transported them to a nearby hospital.





Despite receiving intensive medical care, all five individuals succumbed to their injuries. The police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation into the incident.

Kamal Haasan and Ilaiyaraaja receive awards for outstanding contribution to cinema

Commendation by Mu. Veerapandian

CHENNAI: The Communist Party of India (CPI) has extended its congratulations to Kamal Haasan and Ilaiyaraaja for receiving special awards for "Outstanding Contribution to Cinema" at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival.

In a statement regarding this, Mu. Veerapandian, State Secretary of the Communist Party of India, noted the following: The Communist Party of India conveys its congratulations to film artists Kamal Haasan and Ilaiyaraaja. Kamal Haasan—an exceptional actor hailed by the public as 'Ulaganayagan' (Global Icon)—and the legendary musician 'Isaignani' Maestro Ilaiyaraaja have been honored with awards for "Outstanding Contribution to Cinema" at the 2025 Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival, in recognition of their contributions to Indian cinema.

Through his unique acting prowess, immense talent, creativity, and a remarkable ability to introduce innovations, Kamal Haasan has elevated Tamil cinema to an international standard. His contribution to both Tamil and Indian cinema is monumental. Although Ilaiyaraaja was born in a remote, humble village, he began his musical journey by joining the troupe of his brother, Pavalar Varadarajan, and performing at events organized by the communist movement.



He made his film debut as a music director with the movie *Annakili* and went on to compose music for films in various languages, earning widespread acclaim across India.

On March 8, 2025, in London, Ilaiyaraaja premiered his first Western classical symphony, "Valiant" (Symphony No. 1), achieving a historic milestone as the first Indian to compose and conduct a full&scale Western symphony.

Both Kamal Haasan and Ilaiyaraaja—distinguished artists who have received accolades for their outstanding contributions to cinema—have brought great pride to Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu State Committee of the Communist Party of India (CPI) extends its congratulations and appreciation to both Kamal Haasan and Ilaiyaraaja. This was stated by the party.

Today horoscope

You will accomplish your goals through clever, strategic communication. Those who borrowed money from you and failed to repay it will now return the funds. In business, your stock will sell out. At the workplace, it is best to focus solely on your own tasks.

You will experience joy due to an unexpected inflow of money. Relatives and friends will begin to speak in your favor, and your influence in your social circle will grow. You may attempt to expand your business; ensure you give importance to the opinions of your partners. Your professional life will flourish.

You can expect a sudden gain of money and an increase in your influence. A faulty vehicle will be repaired, and some of you may even purchase a new one. Your workload at the office will decrease. In business, you will attract customers by employing new strategies.

You will receive support from your siblings. You will find happiness in purchasing items you have long desired. You will also receive greater co operation from your spouse's side of the family. You may acquire modern electronic devices. In business, you will successfully collect outstanding payments.

Be mindful of your speech. Expenses may arise due to your children. You will meet with certain individuals for business purposes; acting on the advice of your partners will prove beneficial. At the workplace, you may come across an important document.

You will find yourself immersed in pleasant memories from the past. You will receive good news through friends. Ancestral property—such as a house, a plot of land, or agricultural land—may be sold. In business, your partners will be supportive. You will experience peace of mind at the workplace.

There will be happiness within your family. Your involvement in spiritual pursuits will increase. Your partners will appreciate your candid and straightforward way of speaking. At the workplace, you will achieve your goals with the assistance of your superior.

You will speak your mind openly and directly. A lively and cheerful atmosphere will prevail in your family. You will find peace of mind through relatives and friends. In business, you will be able to collect outstanding dues. At the workplace, you will receive support from your superior. Do not make enemies of your colleagues.

Your family will provide strong support for your new endeavors. You will find peace through relatives on your father's side. Money will arrive as expected, and debt-related issues will be resolved. Business will be profitable. At the workplace, you will avoid getting involved in arguments.

You will find joy in purchasing items you have long desired. You will spend time thinking about. You will meet with loved ones. At work, you will complete your assigned tasks. In business, you may relocate your shop to a different place.

You will act with urgency to keep the promises you have made. You will spend generously on those who are dear to you. Your physical health will be satisfactory. Business will yield profits. At the workplace, you may be recommended for a new position.

It would be wise to curb your short temper. Have open, heart-to-heart conversations with your family members. You may experience some running around regarding your children's education. In a professional capacity, you will have the opportunity to meet with prominent individuals.

Surge of Devotees at Sabarimala: 60,000 Pilgrims Offer Prayers in a Single Day



TIRUVANANTHAPURAM: With the 'Mandala Puja' season currently underway at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala, approximately 60,000 devotees offered prayers at the shrine yesterday alone.

The 'Mandala Puja' season is in progress at the Ayyappa Temple, located in Sabarimala, in the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. Yesterday (Friday), about 60,000 devotees visited the temple to seek the blessings of Lord Ayyappa. As the number of pilgrims continues to rise, the Kerala government and the Devaswom Board have implemented various restrictions to manage the crowds. Under these measures, a maximum of 80,000 devotees are permitted to offer prayers each day.

This includes 66,000 pilgrims who have booked their visits online, and 14,000 pilgrims accommodated through 'spot booking' (on&the&spot registration). Heavy police security has been deployed to ensure that devotees can offer their prayers without any difficulty.

Furthermore, to manage crowding at the 'Sannidhanam' (the main temple complex), the flow of pilgrims ascending the '18 sacred steps' (Pathinettam Padi) is being regulated—allowing approximately 75 people to climb per minute, depending on the volume of arriving devotees.

Complications surrounding the disappearance of a young girl in Gingee

'Ganapathi Homam' performed at Sathiyamangalam Police Station



VILLUPURAM: The Sathiyamangalam Police Station is located near Gingee in the Villupuram district. On the morning of October 12, a 7&year&old girl went missing from Nadupattu village, which falls under the jurisdiction of this station.

Despite the formation of special local police teams, no progress was made, leading to the case being handed over to the CB&CID. Even after 30 days, there has been no breakthrough. During a search operation in a forest area, the CB-&CID police discovered skeletal remains, and a decomposed body was later found in a well. Furthermore, there has been a surge in the number of registered cases, including incidents of theft.

Police Inspector Suresh Babu's efforts to resolve these issues proved unsuccessful. In an attempt to overcome the mounting crises and obstacles facing the police station, Inspector Suresh Babu performed a 'Ganapathi Homam' (a ritual dedicated to Lord Ganesha) yesterday. The ritual was conducted with great devotion by the Inspector, alongside his wife and fellow police personnel. The event was recorded and released by the officers of the Sathiyamangalam Police Station themselves. The performance of a 'Ganapathi Homam' inside a police station has sparked a stir.

11 deaths in Manipur after consuming illicit liquor; over 180 hospitalized



IMPHALl: In Manipur's Chandel district, 11 people have died over the last 48 hours after consuming illicit liquor. More than 180 others have been admitted to hospitals due to health complications. Some of the victims passed away at their homes, while others died while being transported to the hospital.

The Chandel district police stated that the liquor consumed by the victims was not manufactured within Chandel district but was instead procured from the Sugnu area in the neighboring Kakching district. The Chandel District Collector noted that the exact medical cause of death has yet to be confirmed, and an investigation is currently underway.

As a precautionary measure, the public has been advised to refrain from consuming locally produced or suspicious liquor until further notice. Individuals who consumed the liquor are urged to seek immediate medical attention if they experience symptoms such as vomiting, abdominal pain, headaches, dizziness, blurred vision, or difficulty breathing.

Even those who are currently asymptomatic but consumed the suspicious liquor are advised to undergo a medical check&up. Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh visited the hospital to check on the patients undergoing treatment.

He assured that the state government would provide all necessary medical assistance to the victims and has directed officials to conduct a thorough investigation and ensure the swift arrest of those responsible. Furthermore, he stated that medical teams and essential medicines have been kept on standby in Chandel district.

Three Free Cooking Gas Cylinders Per Year

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu government has announced a scheme to provide three free cooking gas cylinders annually, which is set to benefit one crore families. During the election, the TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) had promised to provide six free cooking gas cylinders per year if it came to power. As a first step toward fulfilling this, Chief Minister Vijay announced in the Legislative Assembly that three free cylinders would be provided annually, benefiting 1.30 crore families.

The Tamil Nadu government has compiled a list of beneficiaries for this scheme based on criteria such as: those who received free gas connections under the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana, recipients of the women's monthly assistance grant (Rs. 1,000), and families with an annual income of up to Rs. 2.50 lakh.

Currently, there are 2.40 crore domestic cooking gas connections in Tamil Nadu. Of these, 1.10 crore are single&cylinder connections, including 42 lakh connections held by beneficiaries of the Prime Minister's Ujjwala Yojana. The scheme announced by the Chief Minister is expected to benefit one crore families.

Regarding this, a senior Tamil Nadu government official stated that the government will deposit the cost of the free gas cylinders directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

While the process of identifying beneficiaries is currently underway based on their participation in existing government schemes, there is also a possibility that applications may be collected from all families to further refine the selection of beneficiaries.

3 dead as van plunges into 150 foot gorge on Palani- Kodaikanal road Senior police officials hold urgent consultations



PALANI: Three people died after a van plunged into a 150&foot&deep gorge on the Kodaikanal road. Following this incident, police are deliberating on imposing a ban on night&time traffic along this route—which is notorious for dangerous, sharp curves—in an effort to prevent further accidents.

Mujibur Rahman, a flower merchant from Madina Nagar in Palani, was returning to Palani with his relatives in a van after attending a post&wedding function (maruveedu) in Pallangi, near Kodaikanal—an event held following his daughter's wedding a few days earlier.

The van was driven by Silambarasan (40) from Pudhu Ayakudi. While travelling along the Kodaikanal&Palani mountain road at night, near Savarikkadu, the driver lost control of the vehicle, causing it to plunge 150 feet down the side of the road. Nizamudeen (60), Sheik Fareed (27), and Abbas (65) tragically lost their lives in the accident. Additionally, 16 people sustained serious injuries.

The Kodaikanal police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation. Preliminary inquiries indicate that the accident was caused by the van driver's negligence. Furthermore, the absence of a protective barrier (retaining wall) at the accident site has been identified as a significant contributing factor. There are two routes to reach Kodaikanal—via Vathalakundu and via Palani.

The mountain road via Palani contains numerous dangerous curves and deep ravines; therefore, tourists and drivers traveling along this route must exercise extreme caution.

At night, this stretch is often blanketed in such dense fog that the road itself becomes invisible, posing a high risk of accidents for those unfamiliar with the route.

During weekends, a large number of tourist vehicles travel along this route, often without realizing the inherent dangers. Reports indicate that the police are planning to prohibit traffic on the Palani–Kodaikanal road between 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM the following morning.

This measure is intended to ensure the safety of tourists and prevent the recurrence of untoward incidents, such as the accident that took place the day before yesterday.

Senior police officials are currently engaged in detailed discussions regarding this proposal.

An official announcement is expected soon, which will likely confirm the restriction on all vehicles—except those required for essential or emergency purposes—during these hours.

Nov. 21 NEW INDIA FLASH | EDITORIAL 2026

Protecting Our Mineral Wealth



The Madras High Court has struck down Tamil Nadu's ban on transporting minerals from the State to other States. The court's judgment must be respected. However, it should not be treated as the end of the State's efforts to protect its sand, stone and other natural resources.

The government has the authority to cancel contracts if companies extract more minerals than the quantity permitted under their agreements. Officials must therefore examine whether contract conditions have been violated. They should closely monitor illegal mining, storage and transportation, and take action wherever violations are established.

The quantity extracted from quarries, vehicle movements and sales records must be properly documented. Technology can help compare the quantities reported with the quantities actually removed. When river sand is sold, authorities should record the construction work for which it was purchased and verify that it is used for that purpose.

While renewing contracts or inviting fresh tenders, the government can set clear conditions on the quantity of minerals extracted, where they may be transported and how they may be used. Companies willing to follow these conditions should be eligible to participate. Such measures can support lawful trade while safeguarding public resources.

Even after the court's ruling, the government can act against mineral theft within the framework of the law. Natural resources do not belong only to the present generation; they are also the inheritance of those who come after us. Protecting them is the government's responsibility, and ensuring that they are not plundered is a duty we all share.

Editor, Madurai Mani

5 Foot High Fencing Around Abandoned Quarries

TN Government Issues Directive

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Department of Geology and Mining has issued an order mandating the installation of 5&foot&high protective fencing around unsafe, abandoned quarries across the state. In a circular sent to all District Collectors, the Director of the Department of Geology and Mining, Prabhu Shankar, stated the following:

In recent times, there have been reports of fatal accidents occurring in unsafe, abandoned quarries—a matter of grave concern. These sites, particularly deep pits that collect rainwater during the monsoon season, pose a significant risk; local residents, children, pedestrians, and grazing livestock can accidentally fall into them or drown. To prevent such incidents, durable fencing must be installed around all abandoned quarries, whether located on government land or private (patta) land.

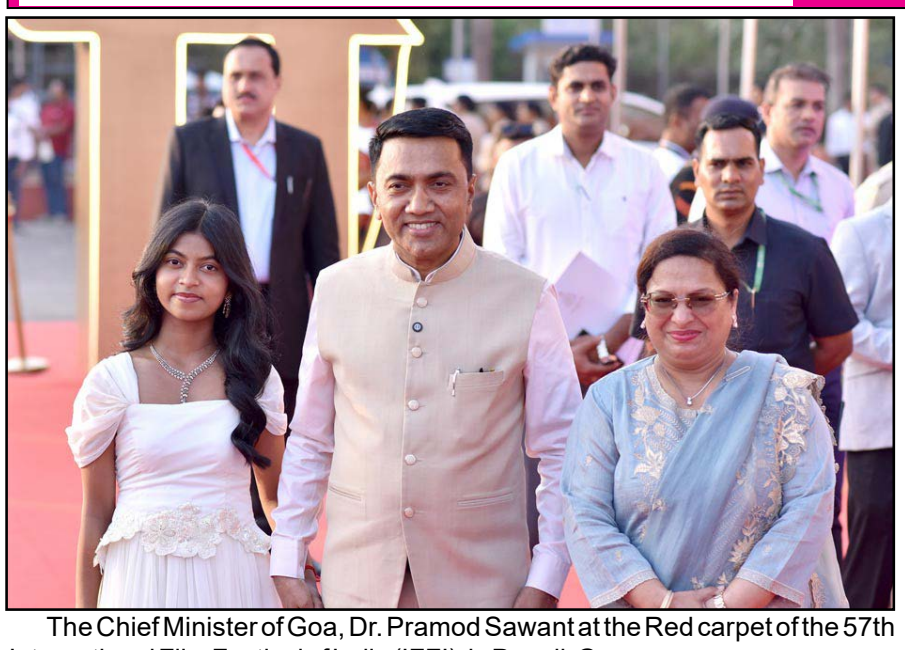
To ensure long&term effectiveness and a robust barrier, the fencing must be at least 5 feet high. For abandoned quarries on government land, the installation of fencing must be prioritized and completed within N two months. Regarding abandoned quarries on private (patta) land, a comprehensive field inspection must be conducted to verify whether the former lessees have installed proper fencing at their own expense. If they have failed to do so, notices must be issued to them immediately. Strict enforcement actions must be initiated under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules.

Prominent warning signs—clearly indicating that it is an abandoned quarry, specifying its depth, and cautioning against trespassing—must be placed around its perimeter, written in both Tamil and English. This is what has been stated.



On the Yercaud hill road in Salem district, a car carrying tourists plunged 300 feet into a gorge and was destroyed; a 26&year&old man named Sabareesh died on the spot. Four others, who sustained serious injuries, have been admitted to the hospital.

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The Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant at the Red carpet of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), in Panaji, Goa.

SC's order should not be implemented: VCK chief Thirumavalavan clarifies stand on Thiruparankundram Deepam row

CHENNAI: Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) chief Thol. Thirumavalavan on Saturday reiterated his opposition to the Supreme Court's interim order permitting the lighting of Karthigai Deepam on the 'Alavai Kal' stone pillar at Thiruparankundram Hill, clarifying that his earlier statement should not be interpreted as support for implementing the order. In a statement posted on X, Thirumavalavan said the VCK strongly opposed the Supreme Court's position and maintained that the order should not be implemented.

"A correction or clarification regarding our statement on the Supreme Court's interim order: The Supreme Court has issued an interim order, subject to certain conditions, directing that a lamp be lit on the stone pillar known as the 'Alavai Kal' on Thiruparankundram Hill on the occasion of Karthigai Deepam (November 24). It has also issued an additional direction stating that assistance from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) may be sought if necessary," he said.

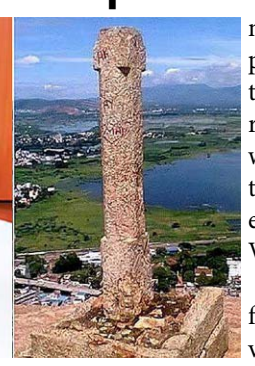
"The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) does not agree with the Supreme Court's position in the slightest. We strongly oppose it in its entirety. Our stand is that this order should not be implemented," Thirumavalavan added.

Clarifying his earlier statement on the matter, Thirumavalavan said he had urged the government to exercise caution in case district authorities proceeded with the implementation of the Supreme Court's directions, as they could not defy the court's order.

"At the same time, since the District Collector and senior officials have been placed in a difficult position, as they cannot defy the Supreme Court's directions, we had stated in our report that if they proceed with its implementation, the government must exercise extreme caution. However, I regret that the statement was worded in a manner that could be interpreted as suggesting that the lamp could be lit on the stone pillar," he said.

He added that his earlier remarks were based on an assessment of practical circumstances and concerns that the situation could lead to violence.





"This was stated solely on the basis of an assessment of practical possibilities and nothing else. In particular, the opinion was expressed out of concern that the situation should not provide an opportunity for the religious extremist groups to indulge in violent celebrations of what they perceive as a 'victory,'" Thirumavalavan said.

He further appealed to VCK cadres, allied organisations and well&wishers not to misunderstand his statement and ignore what he described as distorted narratives being spread against the party.

"Therefore, I wish to clarify to my beloved cadres of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal and our allied organisations and well&wishers that this statement should not be misunderstood in a negative manner. I also urge everyone not to pay attention to the distorted narratives and fabricated interpretations that are routinely spread against us," the VCK chief said. Meanwhile, Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) General Secretary Vaiko expressed sadness over the Supreme Court's order, saying that the traditional practice had been to light the lamp near the mandapam and not on the hilltop pillar. "I am very sad about the judgment of the Supreme Court. For hundreds of years, the practice was that they would light it near that mandapam. Never did they go to the top and torch that pillar. This will hurt the sentiments of the people who are living together in harmony&&both Muslims and Hindus. That particular place, Thiruparankundram, it's a historic place. This is an unwarranted thing. I am sad. I don't want to make any comment on the judges," Vaiko told reporters in Coimbatore.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) Tamil Nadu state president P Shanmugam also strongly criticised the Supreme Court's interim order, calling it "very wrong" and "unacceptable."

"Generally, an interim order means that the usual procedures already in place should continue. However, in this matter, contrary to the usual procedure, the fact that an interim order has been issued stating that the lamp can be lit on the lamppost is strongly condemned," he told reporters. He further said that this is unacceptable in any way. Shanmugam also said that the demolition of the mosque in the Babri Masjid case was wrong, but noted that similar to the Supreme Court's verdict allowing the construction of a Ram temple at that site, an interim order has been issued in this matter in a controversial manner. Shanmugam further urged the Tamil Nadu government to immediately file a review petition before the Supreme Court against this order and that steps should be taken to light the lamp at the usual place on November 24. Tamil Nadu Minister Vanniyarasu also opposed the order, stating that it could create confusion and affect communal harmony.

"This is not appropriate. This is a judgment that can cause confusion. The Constitution of India is a law that emphasises secularism. Ambedkar would say that this can be accepted as a judgment, but it will not be justice. Similarly, this can be accepted as a judgment, but it cannot be accepted as justice," he told reporters at Chennai airport. "It is important to note whether it is a land survey pole or a place where a lamp can be lit. There is a case in the Supreme Court regarding this. Without these two, how is it right to say that it can be lit there or there temporarily? Therefore, we see this as a judgment that can create a confusing situation," he added.

"Just as the RSS and Sangh Parivar gangs incited religious riots in the northern states, they are planning the same here too. This will not create religious harmony. I would like to inform you that the government needs to act very carefully," Vanniyarasu further said.

In a show of support for the Supreme Court's verdict, members of the Thoothukudi South District unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) celebrated the decision by bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets to the public in front of the Old Bus Stand in Thoothukudi on Friday. The Supreme Court has permitted the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam at the Deepathoon on Thiruparankundram Hill in Madurai on November 24, 2026, as an interim arrangement. The court also indicated that assistance from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) could be sought if necessary.

The order has drawn mixed reactions in Tamil Nadu, with petitioners welcoming the decision and the Dargah side announcing plans to file a review petition. The dispute concerns the lighting of the annual Karthigai Deepam at the Deepathoon, an ancient stone pillar on Thiruparankundram Hill near the Sikandar Badhusha Dargah in Madurai. In November 2025, authorities refused permission for the ritual at the hilltop location, citing its proximity to the dargah and possible law&and&order concerns.

In December 2025, a single judge of the Madras High Court directed the temple authorities to light the lamp at the Deepathoon, observing that the pillar was situated more than 50 metres from the dargah. A division bench upheld the direction on January 6, 2026, while requiring the temple administration to conduct the ritual in consultation with the ASI and the police, in view of the site's heritage status.

The Tamil Nadu government subsequently challenged the High Court's decisions before the Supreme Court. The top court issued notice on the state's plea in August 2026 and is now examining the dispute.

Minister Keerthana hits back at Andhra Minister Nara Lokesh



CHENNAI: Minister Keerthana has responded to a sarcastic post by Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh.

Allegations had surfaced that some officials who previously worked at 'Guidance'—the agency facilitating industrial investments in Tamil Nadu—had joined the Andhra Pradesh government, potentially leading to the leakage of sensitive investment&related information.

Opposition parties have claimed that this is the reason why industrial investments intended for Tamil Nadu are instead being diverted to Andhra Pradesh. Nara Lokesh, an Andhra Pradesh Minister and son of Chandrababu Naidu, posted on social media: "Andhra Pradesh's 'top&secret' investment strategy has been leaked—it is simply responding to investors immediately. Feel free to adopt this!" In a sharp retort, Minister Keerthana stated: "Quick responses are good, but swift action is even better.

Tamil Nadu is currently preparing for its second 'Invest for Success and Transformation' summit.

Our goals are clear: securing investment commitments, achieving transformative milestones, implementing projects, and creating job opportunities.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Vijay, the Tamil Nadu government is fully committed to turning investments into tangible milestones." Minister Keerthana added that the 'Invest for Success' summit is set to take place in four days.

Plot to Assassinate Pannun

Nikhil Gupta Sentenced to 19 Years in Prison Verdict Delivered by US Court

NEW YORK: A US court has sentenced Indian national Nikhil Gupta to 19 years in prison for his role in a plot to assassinate Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Sikh individual based in the United States. The sentencing hearing, which lasted approximately 80 minutes, took place on Friday.



Judge Victor Marrero of the US District Court for the Southern District of New York handed down a sentence of 235 months (19 years and 7 months) for the conspiracy to commit murder on US soil. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who heads the organization 'Sikhs for Justice'—which advocates for an independent 'Khalistan'—holds citizenship in both the United States and Canada.

He has consistently engaged in activities directed against India. The US Department of Justice alleged that in 2023, Nikhil Gupta conspired to assassinate Pannun in New York City.

It was further alleged that Gupta acted under the instructions of an Indian official. Following these charges, Nikhil Gupta was extradited to the United States from the Czech Republic in 2024. The US court has now delivered its sentence in the case.

Fraud involving promises of marriage to 14 women

Maharashtra man deported from the UAE

New Delhi: A man from Maharashtra, identified as Mohammad Masin, has been deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to India. He was wanted in connection with a case involving the deception of 14 women through false promises of marriage.

A young woman from Maharashtra filed a police complaint alleging that Mohammad Masin had deceived her by promising marriage. She stated that he subjected her to sexual and mental abuse and defrauded her of Rs 18 lakh. Following this, the police registered a case and launched an investigation, which revealed that Masin had employed the same modus operandi to deceive 13 other women. He had not only extorted money from them but also recorded intimate videos, which he used to threaten them.

When the police attempted to arrest him, he fled the country. The Maharashtra Police sought assistance from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Ministry of Home Affairs to locate and apprehend him.



Based on this, the CBI, through its National Central Bureau in Delhi, issued an Interpol Red Notice against Masin. Meanwhile, it was discovered that Masin was hiding in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Following this, UAE authorities located and arrested him. Subsequently, in accordance with due legal process, they consented to his extradition to India. A special team from the Maharashtra Police then traveled to the UAE, took Masin into custody, and arrived back in India with him yesterday. CBI officials stated that a charge sheet has already been filed in court regarding this case and that the next steps in the legal proceedings will commence immediately.

The CBI is actively working to apprehend criminals who flee abroad, utilizing both the Interpol network and its own 'Bharatpol' framework. In this regard, more than 300 wanted criminals have been brought back to India since 2019.

This year alone, 74 individuals have been extradited.

I had no money to pay off debts or help Meenakshi Nishanth's sensational confession



MADURAI: Nishanth (24), a YouTuber and resident of Arutperunjothi Nagar in Nehru Nagar—the prime suspect in the robbery of 11.384 kg of gold jewelry from the 'Tanishq' showroom on the Madurai bypass road—was arrested on the 17th of this month. Prior to this, his father, Suresh, and a female friend named Meenakshi had also been arrested for their alleged complicity in the heist. Although Meenakshi claimed to have no involvement in the robbery, it is noteworthy that the police were able to recover the stolen jewelry only after she led them to the locations where Nishanth had hidden it.

Meanwhile, the First District Court in Madurai granted permission yesterday for the police to take Nishanth into custody for one day of interrogation. Following this, the police took custody of Nishanth the evening before last and transported him to Salem, where they seized the motorcycle he had used to travel from Madurai to Salem after the robbery. They also questioned individuals regarding three friends who had provided shelter to Nishanth in Salem and helped him board an omni&bus. As these three individuals have since gone into hiding, the police are actively pursuing them.

Nishanth was subsequently brought back from Salem to Madurai, where he was taken to the scene of the crime (the jewelry store), his own residence, and the area near the Madakkulam irrigation tank (kanmai) where he had buried the stolen jewelry. Nishanth demonstrated to the police how he gained entry into the jewelry store by climbing through the metal scaffolding. He showed how he sprayed the security cameras to obscure his image, stole the jewelry, fled the scene, traveled around on a motorcycle with the stolen items, and eventually buried the jewelry at the foothills near the Madakulam irrigation tank.

The police recorded this demonstration on video. Subsequently, he was interrogated at the S.S. Colony police station by a team led by Deputy Commissioner of Police Inigo Divyan and Inspector Subathra. The police seized several items, including the crowbar used to bury the jewelry, the spray, and the gloves and mask used during the robbery.

Following this, the police took Nishanth to the Government Rajaji Hospital and presented him before Magistrate Rajaprabhu yesterday evening. During the proceedings, the Magistrate asked Nishanth if the police had mistreated him or if he had anything else to say. Nishanth replied that the police had not mistreated him. While he had appeared visibly fearful and under great mental distress when he was first taken into police custody, Nishanth arrived at the court yesterday with a smile on his face. The judge ordered Nishanth to be remanded in judicial custody until December 4. He was subsequently lodged in the Madurai Central Prison. Regarding his statement to the police, Nishanth explained: "After finishing college, I began creating and editing 'Reels' videos for YouTube channels. Meenakshi, a former classmate, worked for a YouTube channel; I used to create and edit videos for her. At her request, I also did similar work for a channel run by her mother. Through this, I became close to Meenakshi's family. Eager to post 'Reels' on social media, I pestered my father to take out loans so I could buy an expensive mobile phone and a motorcycle, which I used to travel extensively. I faced humiliation in many places due to the mounting debt. My actions alone burdened my father with a debt of ₹30 lakh. My own income was insufficient to repay this. My father's earnings as an auto&rickshaw driver were also inadequate. Meanwhile, my friend needed money for the construction of her house.

That is why I decided to commit a robbery to steal jewelry." Nishanth further told the police, "Since a Tanishq showroom was located on the route to my home, I kept an eye on it whenever I passed by. I would frequently visit the store, pretending to be a customer, and inquire about various pieces of jewelry. I even checked whether an alarm would trigger if I touched the items displayed on the shelves. Later, noticing that construction work was underway at the store, I planned to carry out the robbery by gaining access through the iron scaffolding set up for the construction.

The first time I attempted it, I had to return disappointed as I couldn't open the elevator." After learning the technical details on how to power on and operate the lift—entirely through YouTube—I entered the shop a second time and carried out the robbery. I informed my friend Meenakshi and my father about the heist, then fled toward Salem on a two&wheeler. I used three different two&wheelers during my escape. I told Meenakshi where I had hidden one of the bags containing the stolen jewelry.

Upon reaching Tiruppparankundram with the loot, I called my father at around 4:00 AM. I told him I had been in an accident and was feeling distressed, urging him to come immediately. When he arrived, I handed him the bag of jewelry and asked him to keep it safe at home. I traveled as far as Nagamalai Pudukkottai, where I stopped my two&wheeler and deliberately punctured the tire. I returned home on the morning of November 12th at 9:00 AM, retrieved the bag I had given my father, divided the jewelry into 13 portions, wrapped each in cloth, and placed them into two separate bags. I then took an auto&rickshaw to the foothills of Madakulam and buried the items there. It was during this process that some people witnessed me burning the cloths.

I do not know if my father saw the jewelry inside the bag. After wandering through several places, I headed to Bengaluru. From there, I traveled to Salem, intending to surrender in court. I thought that by surrendering, I might be able to conceal the truth from the police and perhaps salvage at least one bag of the stolen jewelry. But nothing went as planned; I was caught after a bus driver alerted the authorities. Despite pulling off such a massive heist, I didn't end up with even a single gram of gold for myself. Meenakshi and my father only learned about the robbery after I told them; they have absolutely no connection to this incident.

"Please, let them go," Nishanth pleaded, repeatedly insisting that Meenakshi had no involvement whatsoever. This was stated by the police. Based on the documents seized—including records of phone conversations—the police conducted an investigation and obtained accurate information. They are currently verifying whether all the statements provided by Nishanth are true.

Kolathur Bypoll: Chance As Well As High-Risk Gamble For MK Stalin If He Contests And Big Test For Vijay

KOLATHUR: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay became a pallbearer and walked nearly 2.3 kilometres barefoot in the funeral procession of Kolathur MLA VS Babu, in Chennai on Friday.



Vijay and other senior TVK leaders' presence at the last rites shows Babu's political weightage . Now, all eyes are set on the next high&stakes bypoll. The passing of Babu necessitated a byelections in the Kolathur constituency. Former chief minister and DMK chief MK Stalin, who is not currently a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, may attempt to enter the House by participating in the bypoll. The DMK would like to see its top leader in the assembly to counter first&time CM Vijay. Voice is growing within the DMK to field Stalin in the bypoll. DMK MP Constantine Ravindran, while speaking to reporters, said that while the final call would be taken by Stalin himself, he wants him contesting in the Kolathur. Party workers would love to see him in the race, he added.

If Stalin agrees to contest the byelection, it would be a high&risk gamble as well as an opportunity to regain his lost electoral ground. However, a second defeat in months may damage his political image beyond repair. Stalin, who had won three consecutive times from Chennai's Kolathur constituency since 2011, is a seasoned leader, and he would weigh in winnability factor; only then might he go for the byelections.

The upcoming bypoll would be significant for Chief Minister Vijay as well. It would be seen as a referendum on his work in the past seven months. Generally, the election results of a bypoll go in favour of the ruling party, especially if it is occurring within months. Also, Babu was a popular leader, and general sentiments of voters may go with his party, TVK, which means the fight will be tough for Stalin if he jumps into the electoral ring. However, in case, Vijay's candidate loses, it would give an opportunity to opposition to attack the government.

Babu, 75, gained widespread political attention in May this year after he defeated former chief minister MK Stalin in the 2026 Assembly elections. He was the biggest giant slayer, as he outsmarted the then&sitting chief minister in the Kolathur constituency. He left a legacy which may help the ruling party in the bypoll.

The unassuming politician Babu, who became a tall leader overnight, was a former legislator. He had won from the Purasawalkam Assembly constituency, Chennai, in 2006 on a DMK ticket. He joined Vijay&led Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam in February 2026, and was later fielded from Kolathur to take on Stalin.

Although the DMK members expected Stalin to win hands down owing to the Dravidian major's welfare initiatives, Babu sprang a surprise in trouncing the chief minister. Babu won by a margin of 8,795 votes at the end of 22 rounds of counting.

WB: PM Modi visits IIT Kharagpur for Platinum Jubilee celebrations, interacts with students

KHARAGPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday visited IIT Kharagpur for its Platinum Jubilee celebrations and interacted with students of the institute. Ahead of the visit, CM Adhikari extended his welcome to PM Modi and stated that West Bengal takes immense pride in IIT Kharagpur's contributions to nation&building, academic excellence and innovation.



"On behalf of the People of West Bengal, I extend a warm welcome to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji on his visit to our State tomorrow, to attend the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of IIT Kharagpur. West Bengal takes immense pride in the legacy and contributions of IIT Kharagpur to nation&building, academic excellence and innovation. I wish the institution continued success on this historic milestone and hope the Hon'ble Prime Minister has a pleasant and productive visit," said CM Adhikari.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh on November 21. During his visit, PM Modi will be participating in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of IIT Kharagpur. IIT Kharagpur, established in 1951, was the first Indian Institute of Technology to be set up in the country.

Recognised as an Institute of National Importance, it has played a pioneering role in advancing technical education, research and innovation in India, as per the PMO.

Following his West Bengal visit, the Prime Minister will participate in the 5th Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh in Lucknow. Instituted in the academic session 2021&22, the Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh has emerged as an annual national platform to recognise excellence in skill development and celebrate the transition of skilled youth from training to the world of work.

Since its inception, the ceremony has felicitated All India toppers and high achievers from the skill development ecosystem, fostering a culture of pride, achievement and aspiration around vocational education and skilled careers.

Nitin Gadkari to launch Toyota's flex-fuel Innova on November 26; claims running cost of Rs 25/litre

NEW DELHI: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that Toyota is set to launch a new Innova Flex&Fuel vehicle on November 26, which can run on 100 per cent petrol or 100 per cent bioethanol.



The vehicle will also generate around 60 per cent of its energy through electricity while running, Gadkari said in a post on X. The launch is expected to give a push to ethanol&powered vehicles in India, while helping reduce the country's dependence on petroleum imports. It could also create additional income opportunities for farmers by encouraging agricultural diversification towards the energy sector.

Gadkari said promoting alternative fuels such as bioethanol could help reduce India's dependence on petroleum imports, lower pollution and create new opportunities for farmers by encouraging diversification of agriculture towards the energy and fuel sector.

According to Gadkari, the new Innova will have an effective running cost equivalent to Rs 25 per litre of petrol, when calculated on an average basis, the minister said in a video post.

"Toyota's new Innova offers a choice of running on 100 per cent petrol or 100 per cent bioethanol through flex&fuel technology.

While driving, the vehicle will get around 60 per cent of its energy from electricity. It is scheduled to launch on November 26. By promoting alternative fuels such as ethanol, this is an important initiative to reduce dependence on petroleum imports and connect farmers to energy production," the minister wrote on X. Gadkari said he will launch Toyota's Innova Flex&Fuel vehicle in Delhi on November 26. The vehicle will be capable of running entirely on petrol or 100 per cent bioethanol, while generating around 60 per cent of its energy through electricity during operation.

The minister said the use of alternative fuels and biofuels could help reduce pollution and India's dependence on imported fossil fuels. He added that the shift towards energy production from agriculture could open up new avenues for farmers, making them not just food providers but also energy and fuel providers. In an earlier announcement at the 'Powering the Next Mile' conclave in the first week of November, Gadkari said the new vehicle would offer substantial savings to consumers, IANS reported.

He said bioethanol was priced at around Rs 75 per litre, compared with petrol at approximately Rs 120 per litre. With the vehicle generating nearly 60 per cent of its power through electricity while running, Gadkari claimed its effective operating cost would be equivalent to Rs 25&30 per litre of petrol.

The minister said green, safe and inclusive technologies, including electric and alternative&fuel vehicles, could benefit consumers as well as the country by reducing fuel costs and dependence on conventional fuels. Gadkari said India imports fossil fuels worth around Rs 22 lakh crore and argued that the money could bring greater economic transformation if it reached farmers, workers and the rural population.

He said bioethanol is being produced using feedstocks such as broken rice, corn, sugarcane juice and molasses. Promoting biofuels, he said, could help reduce fuel imports while creating opportunities for agricultural diversification towards the energy and power sector.

Gadkari said farmers are increasingly moving beyond their traditional role as food providers and becoming energy, fuel, sustainable aviation fuel and hydrogen providers as well.

Why The World Looks At Bengaluru: Shivakumar On Talent, AI And Karnataka's Growth



BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, speaking at the Times Now Summit Karnataka, said Bengaluru remains central to India's technology and economic growth, citing its talent pool, investment potential, global corporate presence and contribution to the country's IT sector.

He said the state was looking to strengthen its position in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics.

In an exclusive conversation at the mega summit, Shivakumar highlighted Bengaluru's global reputation, saying the city was recognised internationally for its technology ecosystem and talent.

"Bengaluru is a place of talent and investment... We are contributing to national growth. People in different parts of the world may not know where India is, but they know where Bengaluru is," Shivakumar said. Asked about the roadmap for Bengaluru's IT industry, particularly in AI and robotics, and the government's role in supporting the sector, Shivakumar pointed to the scale of participation at the Bengaluru Tech Summit and the city's established technology ecosystem.

He said the Bengaluru Tech Summit attracted around 50,000&60,000 visitors and participants from more than 150 countries, reflecting the city's growing global reach.

Shivakumar also recalled the contributions of former prime ministers Manmohan Singh and Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Bengaluru's development, saying the city had long been seen as a place through which the world viewed India.

"This is a place of talent, this is a place of investment, this is a place of Fortune 500 companies, the highest GST collection is here, highest we are helping the national growth," he said. Highlighting Bengaluru's workforce, Shivakumar said the city has around 2.6 million IT professionals and produces more than 1.2 lakh engineers annually.

He also referred to Karnataka's contribution to the global technology workforce, particularly in California, claiming that a significant share of IT professionals there are from Karnataka and India.

"In Bangalore you find 2.6 million IT professionals working here. So that means every year we produce more than 1.2 lakh engineers every year," he said.

Shivakumar further highlighted Bengaluru's legacy in science, technology and industrial development, citing the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science, early power generation, aviation and rocket development as part of the city's history. Shivakumar said AI would shape the future of industries and that Karnataka was preparing to expand its focus on the technology.

"We are also coming out with a new university on artificial intelligence," he said, adding that the state wanted to position itself at the forefront of the emerging technology.

He said the Bengaluru Tech Summit provided a platform for companies to showcase innovations, build business partnerships and explore developments in artificial intelligence.

"We know that is the future. The entire world is looking at a new shape. But we want it to be at the forehead, so we look at and we see that all the industries and all the IT companies, whatever they are, they will use it," Shivakumar said.

World Fisheries Day: CM Vijay and Political Leaders Extend Greetings

CHENNAI: On the occasion of World Fisheries Day, Chief Minister Vijay, DMK President M.K. Stalin, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and others have extended their greetings. In this regard, Chief Minister Vijay stated on his X (formerly Twitter) account: "On this World Fisheries Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to our fisherfolk, who brave the roaring ocean waves and the challenges of nature, often risking their own lives and livelihoods.

The dedication of our fisherfolk—who contribute significantly to the nation's food security and economic growth through their hard work—is truly immense. It is the duty of us all to improve the livelihoods of the fishing community and ensure a safe and prosperous future for them. Let us safeguard and protect the interests of our fisherfolk." DMK President M.K. Stalin stated: "With love as vast as the ocean, I extend my World Fisheries Day wishes to all our fisherfolk. In the history and culture of the Tamil people, the fishing community—the heroes of the coastal landscape—holds a unique and significant place. For the benefit of these fisherfolk, our 'Dravidian Model' government has implemented numerous initiatives, including increasing the relief amount provided during the fishing ban period, constructing new fishing harbours and groynes (breakwaters), and offering fuel subsidies.



However, the current administration seems intent on destroying the traditional habitat of the fishing community, driven by the words of an astrologer who suggested building the Secretariat at Pattinapakkam. The Chief Minister, who merely played the role of a fisherman on screen, fails to grasp the true, resilient, and fighting spirit of the fishing community.

The DMK will continue to raise its voice for the safety of fisherfolk, their traditional fishing rights, and the educational and economic advancement of their families. We will stand by them in their struggles. Let us honour the courage and hard work of our fisherfolk, who brave the waves and risk their own lives to provide food for us all." AMMK General Secretary TTV Dhinakaran posted the following: "On this World Fisheries Day, I extend my heartfelt wishes to the entire fishing community. Through their hard work and resilience in the face of immense challenges posed by nature, they contribute significantly not only to the nation's economic growth but also to its food security. Let us all pledge today to protect the livelihoods and rights of the fishing community—whose existence depends entirely on the sea and the shore—by ensuring that no projects are implemented that would negatively impact their economic well&being.

Let us commit to fostering a safe fishing environment at sea and working towards improving the quality of life for all families within the fishing community."

Death of a Lorry Driver from Theni

Relatives Granted Permission to View CCTV Footage from Police Stations

MADURAI: The High Court has granted permission for the relatives and their lawyer to view CCTV footage from four police stations in connection with the death of a lorry driver who had gone to a police station to file a complaint.



Balakrishnan, a lorry driver from Theni, reportedly died by hanging himself in the restroom of the Chekkanurani Police Station in Madurai, where he had gone to lodge a complaint. His relatives allege that there are injuries on various parts of Balakrishnan's body, suggesting that he may have been beaten to death by the police. In a petition filed before the Madurai Bench of the High Court, Balakrishnan's wife, Sudha, stated that the post&mortem examination revealed injuries on her husband's right shoulder, the middle of his back, his chest, and his abdomen. She alleged that her husband had been tortured by the police prior to his death. She requested that the court order the preservation of photographs and video footage taken before his body was removed from the Chekkanurani Police Station restroom.

Furthermore, she sought an order to secure and provide copies of CCTV footage from the Chekkanurani, Valanthur, Usilampatti Town, and Usilampatti Taluk police stations. During an earlier hearing of this petition, the court had ordered the submission of CCTV footage from the 13th and 14th [of the month] from the four aforementioned police stations.

When the petition came up for hearing again before Justice R. Vijayakumar, the prosecution stated that the CCTV footage from the four police stations is currently being held securely by the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). It will soon be handed over to the Judicial Magistrate Court. It was argued that providing these recordings to the petitioner would compromise the investigation. On behalf of the petitioner, it was requested that the CCTV footage from the Usilampatti DSP camp office also be provided, noting that a death had occurred in police custody and that the body had not been photographed. It was asserted that the petitioner has a right to view the CCTV footage.

The judge then questioned why only certain portions of the CCTV footage from the police station—pertaining to the driver's death—had been leaked. When asked why the CCTV footage was being withheld from the petitioner, the prosecution side suggested that the footage might have been released due to the tense situation.

The judge countered by asking why, in that case, only specific clips—akin to a "teaser"—were released. The court ordered that the petitioner's wife, two family members, and their lawyer be permitted to view the CCTV footage from four police stations on November 23.

The judge stipulated that no recordings of the footage may be made, and the family members are prohibited from speaking to the press. With these conditions, the court granted permission to view the CCTV footage and declared the petition closed.

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